

Message Text

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21 14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19

OMB-01 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 /158 W

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R 010605Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8857

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, AL

SUBJECT: PEKING GIVES ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY LESS EFFUSIVE
TREATMENT

SUMMARY. PRC REPRESENTATION AT THE ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR'S
RECEPTION IN PEKING, ITS MEDIA COVERAGE, AND MAO'S MESSAGE
TO HOHA SUGGEST SOME COOLING OF THE ONCE INTIMATE RELATIONS
BETWEEN ALBANIA AND THE PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS, CHOU EN-LAI DID
NOT ATTEND THE NOVEMBER 29 ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION
IN PEKING. LI TE-SHENG LED THE CHINESE REPRESENTATION WHICH
INCLUDED NOTABLY FEWER PRC MINISTERS AND RANKING PERSONNEL
THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. AGAIN DEPARTING FROM THE NORM, THE
SPEECHES WERE NOT REPORTED IN FULL BYNCNA. IN THE EXCERPTS

CARRIED, THE TONE OF THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI'S
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SPEECH APPEARED Milder THAN LAST YEAR AND OMITTED ANY

DISCUSSION OF PRC GLOBAL VIEWS. THE ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR DEFENSIVELY NOTED THE "HOSTILE ENCIRCLEMENT" OF ALBANIA AND PROCLAIMED THAT IT WOULD NEVER BE ISOLATED.

2. THE PUBLIC TREATMENT OF AN ALBANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION CURRENTLY VISITING THE PRC AND OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC-ALBANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOVEMBER 23 WAS ALSO LOWER KEY THAN LAST YEAR. THE MOST TELLING CHANGE, HOWEVER, WAS THE DROPPING OF THE APPELATION " GREAT MARXIST-LENINIST" FOR ALBANIAN LEADER HOXHA IN THE MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM MAO, CHOU AND OTHER PRC LEADERS.

3. PEKING COMMENT ON THE OCCASION REFERRED TO "U.S. IMPERIALISM AND SOVIET IMPERIALISM" IN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TERMS AS EMPLOYED A YEAR AGO. BOTH IMPERIALISMS WERE CLASSIFIED CURRENT THREATS BUT THE SOVIETS WERE SAID TO BE THE MORE DANGEROUS. THIS PRESENTS A SHIFT FROM CHINESE PRONOUNCEMENTS THIS SUMMER ON THE OCCASION OF ALBANIAN ARMY DAY WHEN PEKING AVOIDED IMPLICATIONS THAT THE U.S. POSED EVEN A SECONDARY THREAT.

4. COMMENT. BY PRC STANDARDS, THE TREATMENT OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY STILL REFLECTED THE EXISTENCE OF CORDIAL AND FRATERNAL TIES, BUT THE CHANGES NOTED SUGGEST A SIGNIFICANT COOLING OF THE ONCE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP. THE FAILURE TO CARRY COMMENT ON WORLD ISSUES SUGGESTS THAT ALBANIAN DISCOMFITURE WITH CURRENT CHINESE POLICIES MAY BE GROWING AND THAT PERHAPS THE CHINESE ALSO ARE DISPLEASED WITH SOME RECENT ALBANIAN ACTIONS. SOVIET WOOLING OF ALBANIA NOTED IN MOSCOW 14928 MAY BE RELATED.
OSBORN

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